

Message Text

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62

ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 /054 W

----- 027682

R 051146Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 249

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1105

PASS OPIC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, EFIN

SUBJECT: TAW

REF: STATE 116295

1. OPIC'S EXEC VICE PRESIDENT GREGG CAME INTO LUSAKA JUNE 4 AS SCHEDULED, HAD TWO-HOUR DINNER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND TOM WOOD, INSPECTED 62 TRACTORS AND TRAILERS OUTSIDE LUSAKA, AND DEPARTED JUNE 5 FOR WASHINGTON.

2. GREGG CARRIED AWAY IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY WOOD THAT DISPUTE ON THE WAY TOWARDS SETTLEMENT THROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. WOOD EXPECTS STATE HOUSE CALL WITHIN WEEK OR TEN DAYS TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO HIS PRESENTATION. ASSUMES PRESIDENT WILL REFER MATTER SYMPATHETICALLY TO "NEUTRAL" BRANCH OF GRZ, I.E., LEGAL AFFAIRS OR TO HIS OWN ECONOMIC ADVISOR LISHOMWA RATHER THAN PRESENTING WOOD WITH A SPECIFIC SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. (COMMENT: EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS TIME FRAME OPTIMISTIC IN VIEW PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.)

3. FOLLOWING GREGG'S DEPARTURE, WOOD CALLED AMBASSADOR TO ADD THAT HIS PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT WAS NOT DETAILED IN DOLLARS AND CENTS; HE MERELY TOLD PRESIDENT HE "WANTED TO COME OUT WHOLE WITH NO OVERHANGING LIABILITIES." SAID TWO STORIES CURRENT AROUND
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TOWN AS TO HOW GRZ COULD SETTLE: A) BY PURCHASING ONLY

THOSE 62 UNITS COLLECTED HERE IN LUSAKA; OR B) BY
SETTLING THROUGH PURCHASE TO INCLUDE THESE UNITS PLUS
THOSE AT BALTIMORE DOCKSIDE.

4. WOOD THINKS IT UNLIKELY THAT MINISTRY OF POWER,
TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS (SOKO AND SIWO) WOULD BECOME
INVOLVED IN ANY SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE
DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES COMPLETELY FROM GRZ ACTION ON
CANCELLATION.

5. SUGGESTION THAT GREGG CONTACT SOMEONE IN GRZ PROVED
IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE OF SHORTNESS OF VISIT AND GREGG'S OWN
APPRECIATION THAT TOP OFFICIALS COMPLETELY ABSORBED WITH
PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT JUNE 5 OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN
MINISTER ON SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM.

6. GREGG APPEARED SATISFIED THAT EMBASSY HAD DONE ALL
POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY AT CABINET AND OTHER LEVELS OF GRZ THAT
OPIC HAS COMMERCIAL INTEREST AT STAKE (IS NOT RPT NOT
AN AID AGENCY) AS DO OTHER PRIVATE FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL
ORGANIZATIONS WHO LOANED FUNDS TO TAW ON BASIS OF CONTRACT.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, BUSINESSMEN, VISITS, CONTRACTS, PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRACTORS, TRAILERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUSAKA01105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740143-0368
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740673/aaaacft.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPIC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 116295
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TAW
TAGS: OTRA, EFIN, US, ZA, TAW, (WOOD, TOM), (GREGG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005